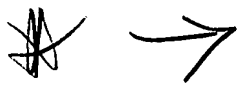


- Also in the amended now **independent claim 16** there is no anticipation in Hirs patent of the means for or even the concept of carrying out pre-testing of suspensions of unknown filtration characteristics by means of single sheets of medium of known filtration characteristics as well as carrying out permeability determinations during operation on sections of a permanent belt medium for purposes of control.

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- **Claims 18-20** are cancelled.

- Claims 1-4, 9, 13 rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) (unpatentable over Whitney in view of either of Hirs patents).

- **Claims 1-3.** Although an anticipation in Hirs patent of the independent **claim 1** seems unlikely in view of the preamble describing the prior art that belongs to an entirely foreign classification, namely, technology dealing with loose, granular filter medium. However, the applicant is anxious to avoid a controversy on this issue and it seems appropriate to base decisions on inventive merit etc. taking Hirs technology as the prior art.

This being the case the preamble to the amended claims 1-3 now takes the form similar to that of the preamble of the original Claim 10. This prior art is totally devoid of the means for or concept of using the filter belt as support for and conveyor of beds of granular material to transport them to a bed regeneration device where the surfaces of the grains are cleaned and reactivated and then recycled to the contaminant filter chamber for subsequent filtration or purification cycles. The idea of fitting the Whitney filter with contaminant chambers of the present invention is too far-fetched to deserve any serious consideration. The examiner maintains that it would be obvious to anyone skilled in the art at the time the invention (1954/59) was made to provide the system of the primary reference with the sealing mechanism of either secondary reference in order to provide improved sealing for the treatment material of this primary reference system.

Whether it can or not is irrelevant for judging the merits of the system of the present application.

What needs clarification is the question as to whether the system of the primary reference in view of the secondary reference is capable of carrying out communal water purification with regenerative beds of sand.

The answer is NO.

- The amended **Claim 4** now made dependent on the amended Claim 1 has in no way been anticipated the primary and secondary references.
- The amended **Claim 9** is central to the operation of the system of the present invention. One distributor of the primary reference consists of a spray head (44) and filter cloth (29) which are entirely unsuited for distributing a slurry of granular material such as sand. The same can be said for the further described "spreaders" (13) and (16) of the thick slurry feed.

An important key to the present innovation described as as a "conically perforated distributor (27). The primary function is to evenly distribute a large throughput over a sealed section of filter belt and avoid any tendency to "hold-up" of the granular material on the distributor. This is achieved by eliminating all flat surfaces or extended horizontal lineal parts (e.g. perforated pipe) over the entire extent of the top of the distributor plate.

- **Claim 13** is cancelled.

- A brief description of the drawings is now given.
- Fig. 2 is amended to better show the dependent rim and eliminate numbers not appearing in the specification.

Enclosed: Amended Specification P. 1-12
Discette electronic copy (MS word)
Amended Drawing Fig. 2 (x2)

